

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. CLAIM STATUS AND AMENDMENTS

Claims 6-11 and 13-25 were pending in this application when last examined and stand rejected.

Claim 6 is amended.

Claims 13 and 14 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto.

No new matter has been added.

II. OBVIOUSNESS REJECTIONS

On page 2-5 of the Office Action, claims 6, 7, 9, 11 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Xing et al. in view of Yasuda et al. and in further view of Xu et al.

Enclosed herewith is a verified English translation of the Japanese priority document (JP 2002-245903) to remove the Xu reference. The subject matter of the rejected claims is supported by the Japanese priority document because the subject matter of International application filed in the U.S. is the same as the Japanese priority document. Thus, this rejection is overcome.

Further, on page 5-7 of the Office Action, claims 6-9 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jimbo et al. in view of Hanni et al. On page 7-8 of the Office Action, claims 13 and 19-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jimbo et al. in view of Hanni et al. and in further view of Sugihara et al. It is unclear if claim 10 is included in this rejection. Clarification is requested. Finally, on page 9 of the Office Action, claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jimbo et al. in view of Hanni et al. and in further view of Sugihara et al. and Varalli et al.

As for these rejections, the Examiner asserts that Jimbo discloses placing a coating of poly-L-lysine and laminin in order to promote cell adhesion. However, we note that Jimbo does not teach or suggest that collagen is applied to the surface of the electrode. Claim 6 is amended to delete laminin without acquiescence. Further, claims 13 and 14 are deleted without acquiescence. Thus, these rejections are overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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